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Diversity is our strength

Toronto is one of the most diverse cities in the world. ACTRA Toronto's professional performers reflect the ethnic and cultural diversity of our neighbourhoods. Our many cultures and communities are a key point in building our city as a film, television, new media, and commercial production centre. Diversity is our strength.

The Diversity Committee at ACTRA Toronto

The ACTRA Toronto Diversity Committee is a volunteer committee dedicated to reaching out to physically and culturally diverse performers to increase their participation in the industry, and advocate for policies and practices that support their work, and activism in our union. The Diversity Committee is responsible for the following initiatives:

- **CastingDiversity.ca:** In the summer of 2010, ACTRA Toronto's Diversity Committee launched CastingDiversity.ca., an on-line database of ACTRA's physically and culturally diverse members. CastingDiversity builds on the successful Mainstream Now catalogue developed by the committee in 2005. CastingDiversity is a free database available to ACTRA members, and is accessible to casting directors, Producers and Directors who want to reflect the diversity of our population in their productions. If you are a physically or culturally diverse ACTRA member, visit www.castingdiversity.ca and add your profile, picture and link to your demo reel.
- **Casting Diversity – working with Producers:** In 2010, over 800 physically and culturally diverse performers and Aboriginal performers attended open casting calls held by NBC/Universal and facilitated by ACTRA's Diversity Committee. NBC/Universal asked for the calls as part of their initiative to increase diversity in casting of US based programs. The Diversity Committee is following up with Canadian Production companies to ensure steps are taken to better reflect the diversity we see on our streets on our screens.
- **Opening doors:** Together with other unions and guilds, the committee is working to "open doors" and opportunities for physically diverse performers, looking at what steps can be taken to help make audition facilities, sets, and union events fully accessible for performers living with disabilities.
- **Celebrating our diversity:** The committee partners with community and cultural film festivals showcasing the work and talent of Toronto's diverse filmmakers and performers.
- **Building activism:** The Diversity Committee encourages and supports the participation and activism of physically and culturally diverse performers in the events and structures of the union. If you would like to get involved in the Diversity Committee, please contact Diversity Chair Jani Lauzon.

For more information, please contact:

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